64-1942

ALABAMA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FINE WHITE PROFESSOR FOR EATING WITH NOTED NEGRO EDUCATOR

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 3—Donald Rasmussen, white Talladega College professor, his wife, and Louis Burnham, Birmingham educator, were fined $25 and costs respectively for eating together at the same table in a colored cafe here last week. Mrs. Nancy Williams, proprietor of the restaurant, was fined $50 and costs. A Birmingham segregation code prohibits members of the two races eating together in the same cafe.

Rasmussen told Police Judge Henry J. Martin he was in the city on a hurried trip and had invited Burnham to join him and his wife at dinner to discuss certain work. Rasmussen has been a Talladega instructor since the beginning of the current term in September.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Order Colored Families To Move In Lofton Case

SEP 1 - 1942

LOS ANGELES. —(ANP)— Bitterly disappointed and indignant that race prejudice should have such a free hand, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Lofton and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Laws were faced with orders to move last Tuesday from their own homes located in the Central Avenue garden. They had purchased the homes some time ago on the border of this beautiful residential district, the majority of whose home owners are colored. But white neighbors, resurrecting a 19-year-old covenant whereby persons other than Caucasians were forbidden occupancy of property in the restricted district, entered suit to force their evacuation.

SEP 1 - 1942

The long fight which has been going on for months was culminated last Tuesday when Judge Roy V. Rhodes rendered the decision that such racial restriction covenants are constitutional, and that the families could no longer occupy or own the property, Attorneys Loren Miller and Thomas Griffith had brought all manner of legal artillery to bear on the case and it was thought that the colored families involved and others who were preparing to buy in the neighborhood would be free from interferrence.

In attempting to justify his decision that race restrictions are valid, Judge Rhodes entered the excuse that the court does not deny equal protection of the laws, "be cause colored people have the right to enter into similar restrictive covenants," and if they did the court would protect them.

64-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

D.C.

Detroiters in Capital Hit Housing Jim-Crow

Delegation Demands Lifting Ban on Negro Families at New Project

By Eva Lapin

JAN 30 1942 (Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—A delegation of prominent Detroit leaders met with Charles F. Palmer, Defense Housing Coordinator, today to protest against a discriminatory ban denying Negro tenants the right to enter a new housing development. Members of the delegation included: Charles Diggs, Negro State Senator; Lebron Simmons, president of the Detroit National Negro Congress; Jack Raskin, executive secretary of the Civil Rights Federation, and George Murphy of the National Negro Congress.

The delegation felt that the admission of white tenants into the project to the exclusion of Negroes was an attempt to divide the Negroes and whites. It was further seen as an attempt to curtail badly needed defense housing for both.

The 200-unit development, known as the Sojourner Truth Project, was authorized for Negro defense workers last summer. On Jan. 15, Palmer announced that it would not be opened to Negro tenants. Detroit organizations immediately began a campaign to have this decision reversed.

The delegation stated that Palmer indicated he was taking the matter up again with Detroit officials and that he would be guided by their opinions.

JAN 30 1942

MAYOR BACKS PROTEST

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries of Detroit is already on record for admission of Negro families to the project, and the common council today approved his position. Tomorrow the Detroit Housing Commission is expected to rule on the matter, and Palmer declared that final decision could be expected by Monday.

Palmer's original discriminatory decision is believed due to pressure exerted by Rep. Rudolph G. Tenerowicz, Michigan Republican, and the reactionary sub-committee on Housing, headed by Rep. W. Boykin, Alabama Tory.

A small group of reactionary residents in the neighborhood of the scheduled Sojourner Truth Project protested to Washington against construction of the Negro project. Rep. Tenerowicz supported this Jim Crow demand, and housing officials yielded and informed authorities to accept white applicants only.

JAN 30 1942

JIM CROW PRESSURE

Rep. Boykin, who headed a subcommittee which made a "holiday" tour of defense housing projects, is reported to have demanded that the project be turned over solely to white occupants or he would hold up enactment of the $300,000,000 Lanham housing appropriation just passed.

Boykin has also boasted that he is responsible for firing Clark W. Foreman, Director of the Defense Housing Division of the Federal Works Agency, a strong advocate of low-cost housing projects for Negro families.

Foreman's division was abolished and it is widely rumored that his dismissal was forced on housing officials as another condition for passage of the Lanham Act.

Another recent casualty in the housing picture was United States Housing Administrator Nathan Strauss, who also saw the need for providing decent homes for Negro workers, and thus incurred the enmity of the Southern Tory bloc in Congress.

The Detroit situation is seen as the latest in a series of developments indicating that Negro families are getting a raw deal in the housing picture.

JAN 30 1942

REACTIONARY SCHEME

In many areas Negro low-cost housing projects have been the chief victims of the priorities shortages in the construction field which has eliminated all but defense housing.

Negro workers are victims of a vicious cycle which has spread out to affect their housing status. They find it extremely difficult to gain entrance to vocational training courses so they can prepare themselves for industrial jobs.

The majority of employers, using the excuse that they can find few Negroes with training or needed skill, refuse to employ them in defense jobs. Since none but defense workers are eligible for Government-built defense housing projects, Negro workers are thus barred from securing decent low-cost homes.

JAN 30 1942

Large numbers of white workers brought in by defense employers show that more housing is needed for white workers as well. But the authorities have tried to avoid this problem by sharpening discrimination against Negroes and by trying to incite whites against Negroes.

In some cases, housing authorities have taken projects originally designed for Negro families and turned them over for white occupancy. This has been done on the ground that projects for Negroes were intended for slum-clearance and not for "defense" purposes and that housing for defense workers must take precedence above all.

A Negro development at Texarkana, Arkansas, was later turned into one where Negroes were barred.

Negro occupancy was permitted after six weeks use.

The Navy Department ordered a 210-unit development near Portsmouth, Va., intended for Negro families, to be turned over to white shipyard workers. Housing authorities complied with this request. Later, however, they built a 300-unit project for Negro workers in Norfolk.

JAN 30 1942

The Maritime Commission development at Pascagoula, Miss., which originally had a Negro section, has been turned over for full occupancy for white workers.

PHILADELPHIA BANS

In Philadelphia, the Richard Allen Homes, a low-cost housing development scheduled for 75 per cent Negro occupancy and 25 per cent white, has now been turned into a "defense" project, with instructions to give preference to defense workers. Since there are undoubtedly more white defense workers in this area, the proportion of Negro occupants will be substantially decreased.

JAN 30 1942

At the present time there are 5,000 publicly-financed dwellings for Negro workers either being built or programmed, but this is hardly enough to take care of the imperative housing needs of low-income Negro families.

Negro leaders believe that an end to Jim Crow practices in defense industries, thus opening the gates to Negroes for defense jobs, and expansion of the present small program for Negro homes will go a long ways toward clearing up the unfortunate situation that has developed.

JAN 30 1942

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Suggests Moving Capital Negroes 'Across River'

Too Many Race Folk in 'D. C.' Congressman Says

APR 4 - 1942

WASHINGTON — ANP)— Rep. Compton I. White, democrat of Idaho, failed to help democracy's cause he spouted in committee last week that Negroes should be moved off You Street out in the country across the Anacostia river. White also is said to have suggested certain sections of Maryland Avenue where Negroes might be moved.

Washington is being "infiltrated by blacks," Mr. White said. "You are afraid of this race infiltration. What good are they as against the administration of the government's business?

Stating that he had lived here for nine years, he added, "I would suggest that you go into the area between 16th Street and Florida Avenue, N. W., and clean out that dirty section of You Street, make it a decent place in which to live and put war workers in them."

Rep. McGregor of Ohio took up the cudgels on behalf of the Negro and told White "Black people have as much right to live here as white people." White replied, "They are not war workers."

APR 4 1942

The meeting was a hearing of the special committee of public buildings and grounds.

From the Congressional Directory; "Compton I. White, Democrat of Clarksford, Idaho, was born in Baton Rouge, La., July 31, 1877, the son of John E. White and Robert (Bowman) White of Mississippi and Louisiana stock respectively; soon after his birth his parents moved to the ancestral home in Rankin county, Miss.; received his early education in the private schools of Jackson, Miss."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Court Refuses To Enforce Deeds Barring Negroes

DEC 16 1942

The United States Court of Appeals here Monday refused to enforce deeds forbidding Negroes to own or occupy six houses in the 2500 block of Thirteenth Street Northwest because residential conditions today are "wholly different" from those in 1910 when the restriction was imposed.

DEC 16 1942

The court said in an opinion by Chief Justice D. Lawrence Groner that such covenants are generally enforceable, but not under such circumstances. The purpose of the restriction, the court pointed out, has been defeated by Negro occupancy of many other properties in the neighborhood which are not subject to such restrictions.

Although refusing an injunction against Mr. and Mrs. Frederick F. Hundley, Negroes, 2530 Thirteenth Street Northwest, the court said those who complained might sue for damages. The restrictive deeds prescribed a penalty of $2000. Seeking to enforce the restriction were Mrs. Rebecca Gorewitz, 2528 Thirteenth Street Northwest, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul W. Bogikes, 2534 Thirteenth Street Northwest.

64-1942

D.C.

Objects To Negro Girls Occupying Dormitories

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) — Plans for the erection of dormitories for defense workers, female, on the capitol grounds near Union station, are being held up by the house buildings and grounds committee whose principal objection is that the dormitories will be partly occupied by Negro girls.

The dormitories are merely reception dormitories to be used until the girls could find permanent places to stay.

"The Informer"

Houston, Tex.

Prominent in the listing of the committee is Fritz G. Lahman of Texas, author of the famous Lahman bill providing for housing; other members include C. Jasper Bell, Missouri; Charles A. Buckley, New York; Frank W. Boykin, Alabama; Michael J. Kirwan, Ohio; Newt V. Mills, Louisiana; Lansdale G. Sasscor, Maryland, all Democrats. Republican members include Prhr G. Holmes, Massachusetts; Albert G. Butterford, Pennsylvania; Edwin Arthur Hall, New York; J. Harry McGregor, Ohio; Clarence E. Kilburn, New York.

It is believed the committee has no intention fo passing the bill, merely on this objection of the southern group which almost wrecked President Roosevelt's housing program when racial issues were injected in the argument.

Another site is believed under consideration since the lily white boys from Dixie still believe in totalitarian tactics.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
February 17, 1942

Orlando Zoning Board Takes No Action Upon Proposed Negro Area

Approximately 75 persons, residents and those living adjacent to a tract west of Kentucky Avenue, yesterday afternoon vigorously protested to City Planning and Zoning Commission the zoning of the tract for negro residences. No action was taken.

The tract bounded on the north by Collyer Street, on the west by Rio Grande Avenue, on the south by America Street and the east by Kentucky Avenue, was approved by the Interracial Committee sometime ago and referred to the Zoning Commission, which also recommended it to the City Council.

108 RESIDENTS PROTEST

Residents, hearing of the recommendations, presented a petition more than a month ago containing names of 108 persons living either on or in the neighborhood of the tract, denouncing any approval. Council then referred the matter back to the Zoning Commission which met yesterday afternoon to hear from residents.

Residents of the area heatedly charged that the only purpose to be served in zoning the tract for negros would be for the owner. Further that 12 families now actually live in the proposed area, which if zoned for colored use, would render their property valueless.

Chairman Mullins of the commission declared that "a location must be picked out somewhere to house our negro residents, and such a plot would settle this constantly re-occuring problem for at least 10 years."

POPULATION INCREASING

Dr. A. Fred Turner, chairman of the Interracial Committee, said that the colored population of Orlando is increasing in far greater ratio than whites, and that a suitable piece of ground to relocate deposed negroes of Jonestown and other increasing numbers must be found in an amiable way with fairness and justice to all.

Archie King, who stated he lived outside city limits on Orange Blossom Trail, declared that the city owns enough ground west of Parramore and south of Gore where they intersect to house great numbers of negroes. He referred to the old city dump site and indicated that much of the ground would have to be filled in for use as a negro residential area.

The residents brought out the fact that at present there are no negros living or owning property in the area proposed to be zoned for colored use.

The Zoning Commission, after the residents had left the council room, decided to take no action, although it is believed it will come up before council Wednesday.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
November 17, 1942

City Reclaiming Old Carter Street Dump Into Residential Area

The City of Orlando is now engaged on a large reclaimation project, transforming the old Carter Street dump into highly desirable property for eventual occupancy by negroes, it was revealed yesterday.

City Commissioner E. J. Lyons who has been interested in the project, said that a large bulldozer is now pushing ground around on the project which, when completed, will make available about 70 choice lots, 50 by 150 feet in size.

Entire cost of labor on the project may be met by the resurrection of tons of scrap metal which has been buried for years at the site. The scrap metal is being sold as fast as it is recovered.

Bill Crosby who is hauling the scrap iron for the City Engineering Department, estimated that 10 tons of old motors from automobiles, frames, rear ends, transmissions, and even a heavy steam boiler have already been recovered, with indications that total scrap metal salvage may reach 100 tons.

Comm. Lyons expressed the possibility that the city may seek a Federal project for the erection of a negro housing site on the reclaimed property.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
November 17, 1942

Action Delayed On Re-Zoning of Property Beyond Kentucky Ave.

Orlando Zoning Commission meeting yesterday at City Hall took no action on a proposed zoning of property west of Orange Blossom Trail for negroes after hearing a report from City Engineer Pat Herndon that 500 lots are available for negro homes in the already existing colored section of Orlando.

Herndon's report, the first survey of its kind ever taken in Orlando, showed a total of 620 lots available in the colored area bounded by Church to Gore Ave., and from Division to Orange Blossom Trail. One hundred and twenty of the lots were rejected due to swampy or low land conditions.

According to Herndon, the remaining 500 lots were on good ground, and in excellent shape for building operations.

"I'll tell you one thing, and that is where property owners jack the price of these lots up to $500 and $800 I think the City Tax Assessor ought to look into the matter." Commissioner J. J. Newell said to the meeting after it was reported that most of the lots were "sky-high" in price, in fact prohibitive for the negroes to purchase.

After it found that 500 lots were available, more than enough to adequately take care of an increase in the colored population, the zoning commission tabled the matter of zoning of a large section of property west of Orange Blossom Trail which had been sought as negro property.

James Slade, city investigator, was detailed to make an examination of negro properties in the Jonestown area, relative to having these negroes exchange their properties for lots in the present colored section. If not prohibitive in cost, the city would move their homes from one lot to another.

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Says FDR Order 8802 Applies To Jim Crow Housing

California Lawyer Contends Executive Ruling Outlaws Residential Discrimination

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—In the latest step of the famous Lofton restricted district case which it is thought may finally reach the United States Supreme Court the powers of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 8802 were called forth last week. Upon Superior Court Judge Roy V. Hayden giving special permission, the Civil Liberties league made memorandum under the signature of "a friend of the court." The memorandum specified that property restrictive covenants based on racial discrimination violated the clause in the 14th amendment that guarantees equal protection.

Listed as Dolo M. Burkman vs. Liddy, the case now known as the Lofton case is under submission by Judge Rhodes, in which whites living on the border of Central Avenue gardens, Negro residential district, seek to enforce covenants in deeds now 19 years old to keep their section lily-white. The said deeds prohibit occupation of property "by persons not of the Caucasian race."

Atty. A. L. Wirin who submitted the memorandum cited past decisions by the California State Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court as being no longer binding. This, he explained, is because of the "growing protection by the United States Supreme Court, of the rights of Negroes in general and the rights of Negroes to be free from discrimination because of race, creed, or color in particular." The policy of the would - be restrictors is particularly against the President's recent order 8802, declared Wirin.

Said the brief: "Today we are at war, fighting for the maintenance of our basic freedoms. One of these freedoms is that freedom from class and race discrimination at the hand of state or individual which disunity is perhaps a luxury which we can afford to indulge in, in times of peace. At such a critical time in our nation[illegible] present, this luxury jeopardizes the war effort, and should neither be encouraged nor tolerated by the courts. The national policy which eschews racial discrimination should be upheld in this court, during this critical hour in the life of America."

64-1942
Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

This Home Attacked Twice; Police Now on 24-Hr. Guard

NOV 14 1942

1508 N. Eden Street

BALTIMORE—Police are now keeping a 24-hour vigil in the 1500 block of N. Eden Street to prevent further terrorism by a white mob which stoned the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Darby at 1508 on two occasions last week.

The Darbys (he is a postal clerk) and their two small children moved into the house, located in an all-white block, last Tuesday. They rented it from Dr. J. G. McRae who purchased it the month before with no restrictions as to tenants.

According to Mrs. Darby the first outbreak occurred Wednesday night about 11:20 and lasted fully ten minutes. The second same the following evening about 8:45, she said, and was much more brief.

NOV 14 1942

NAACP Called in

Fearing similar acts of vandalism, Mrs. Darby contacted NAACP representatives Friday and told them that while police investigations had been made, she feared they had been insufficient.

W. A. C. Hughes, Jr., legal representative of the NAACP, conferred with police officials and now special details on each of three daily shifts are patrolling the block.

NOV 14 1942

As a result of the outbreaks with brickbats, stones and other missiles, first floor windows were smashed, those in the front upstairs bedroom where her children were sleeping were shattered, Mrs. Darby told the AFRO.

During this time, Mrs. Darby said, she was forced to lie on the floor for safety.

Whites Come to Rescue

When the barrage subsided, Mrs. Darby said, she called the police. Before they arrived, however, some of the white residents came over, Mrs. Darby continued, and offered their assistance and said they had called the police.

"I wouldn't open the door for any of them, although it seemed as if they wanted to come to my rescue," Mrs. Darby explained.

"After all, I was in a strange neighborhood and I wasn't sure what neighbor I could trust." She refused to open the door until police arrived in a scout car.

"I had never heard of such a thing before in my life," she declared. "I asked the police what did they think happened. I didn't know whether it was a burglar trying to break in or what."

Mrs. Darby said one of the policemen replied: "Well, lady, I'll tell you what it is. You know this is an all-white neighborhood. I don't think they want any colored people in this block."

"I asked him what difference did it make," Mrs. Darby went on, "and he said, 'I don't know. That's what usually happens when a colored person breaks the block.'"

NOV 14 1942

The policemen remained with Mrs. Darby until she dressed her children and went to the home of relatives to seek refuge for the night.

Another Blitz Thursday

However, they returned to the house with relatives and spent the night without further trouble.

NOV 14 1942

Thursday night's bombardment was brief, lasting about two and a half minutes, Mrs. Darby asserted, but came simultaneously from front and back.

She said one of the white residents gave an exact description of one of the men in Thursday's raiding party that she had given to police the previous evening.

After reporting the incidents to the NAACP on Friday, Mrs. Darby said, she received real police protection.

64-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

CONSTANT READER

New Bedford Workers 100% Behind War, But Bosses Cling to Traditional Ways

By SENDER GARLIN

NEW BEDFORD, Mass.—Many, many years ago New Bedford was a famous whaling town. From the Cape Verde Islands (300 miles off the coast of Africa), came many Portugese. Some became fishermen, but the majority found their way into the textile mills. Today New Bedford has the largest Portugese population in the U. S. Although the Portugese are a substantial part of the city's population, they are outranked by the English, some of whom have worked in the city's textile mills for 30 years or more. (On the train from New Bedford to Boston I met one of them—now retired after putting in most of his life as a weaver—who talked of his youthful trade union experiences in Lancashire, of Robert Blatchford and his "Merrie England" and of the great socialist agitator and editor Harry Quelch (mentioned by Lenin for his help in finding a printing press in London where Lenin could issue his broadsides that prepared the Russian masses for the seizure of power).

JUN 12 1942

My meeting in the Odd Fellows hall was a veritable League of Nations—but with people's representatives. There was an old German worker who, after the meeting, told of Wilhelm Liebknecht's visits to his home in Germany and of the famous leader playing chess with his father; a number of English textile workers originally from Manchester; many Portugese-Americans, and several Negro women, one of whom asked pointedly whether "the Soviet Union would discriminate against Negroes if there would be 13,000,000 of them in that country."

It's probably no consolation to the Negro people of New Bedford that they are not the sole victims of discrimination. The government recently completed a fine, new Housing Project, and here, too, there is a "restricted" section for the Cape Verdean Portugese. But the Project has good points too, however: the rooms are modern, have steam heat, hot and cold running water, baths, showers, electricity, refrigerators, and utility cabinets. And the rent is much lower than the banks, who own so many of the homes in the city, charge for the frame houses not far from the endless vista of textile mills.

JUN 12 1942

Although some of the textile mills have been converted to war production, many are empty shells, having been abandoned during the crisis of 1929. Those that are working are operating full blast. Because most of the unions are still in the hands of the old-line AFL officials, there hasn't been much progress in the way of joint worker-management committees for stepping up production. Unfortunately, most of the New Bedford employers, too, operate in the old way.

This, however, is not the true barometer of the people's mood regarding the war. New Bedford, I learned, leads the state of Massachusetts in civilian defense activities and in the sale of war bonds and stamps. Particularly active in this respect are the Portugese workers. Several days after Pearl Harbor a call was issued by 64 Portugese clubs of the city for a conference. (Our friend Joe Figueiredo, the Party organizer, was right in the thick of all this, of course) and even the conservative New Bedford Standard-Times had to be respectful. Resolutions were adopted pledging loyalty to the Government (with a good whack at the Axis gang, including its agents in Portugal), and a program worked out for the sale of war bonds, defense stamps, blood doning. A prominent New Bedford Portugese-American doctor now heads the committee.

JUN 12 1942

Talking about the New Bedford Standard-Times, one thing that is hard to escape in traveling is the shadow of the Peglers and the Mallons. The Pegler mug has a "folksier" look in the Standard-Times than it has in the N. Y. World-Telegram but the column has the same poisonous ingredients. "What can be done about getting Pegler out of the Standard-Times?" was one of the questions at my meeting. There are lots of things that can be done, and I hope I made some practical suggestions.

A man was twice elected to office in New Bedford on a platform of opposition to the Standard-Times. "But don't get the impression he was any good," I was warned. The point is he knew how much the people hated that sheet and he wanted to cash in on that sentiment.

* * *

It's an interesting trip, so far.

64-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Who Took Housing Project From Negroes, Detroit Asks

Both Organizations Protest to Washington Against Ruling Making Negro Project One for 'Whites Only'

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Feb. 1.—AFL and CIO leaders have joined the campaign to have the Sojourner Truth Housing Project returned to Negro defense workers.

The project was expressly built for Negro workers. After its completion Federal Housing authorities suddenly reversed the earlier decision and ruled that it would operate as a Jim Crow apartment group.

Leaders of both the AFL and CIO supporting the fight include Frank X. Martel, president of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, Tracy Doll, president of the Wayne County CIO, and Lester Granger, national secretary of the Urban League.

The Sojurner Truth project, named after the great Negro woman abolitionist leader, was taken away from Negroes after a campaign by unscrupulous real estate interests aided by the Klu Klux Klan.

The Klan waged a campaign of physical violence in the community, urging anybody who would listen to attack any Negro who attempted to move into the government-built apartment houses.

An indignant committee of Negro and white citizens protested to the Detroit Housing Commission but that body refused to register a protest with U. S. Housing Coordinator Charles Palmen, the man responsible for the order.

The protest was carried to both branches of organized labor in Detroit and found immediate response. The city CIO council, representing 350,000 organized workers, sent a vigorous protest to Washington.

The AFL Detroit Central Labor Council sharply criticized all public housing agencies responsible for the act of discrimination.

EVADES ISSUE

In sharp contrast to the AFL and CIO joint fight against discrimination, Charles Elgecombe, former secretary of Labor's Non-Partisan League and now secretary of the Detroit Housing Commission, failed to protest against the discrimination.

Mr. Elgecombe dodged public comment on the issue by stating that he had not "formed any policy."

Mayor Jeffries after the united actions of the AFL and CIO and a broad citizens movement, this week recommended to the City Council which endorsed the idea, that they petition defense housing authorities in Washington to redesignate the 200-family project for Negro families.

Meanwhile, national unity in the battle against discrimination in defense industries reached a new high in Detroit this week when more than 60 representatives of private and public agencies agreed unanimously to set up a Detroit Council on Fair Employment Practices after hearing an address by G. James Fleming, field representative of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices. The meeting was called by Walter Hardin, chairman of the UAW-CIO Inter-Racial Committee.

An organizing committee was set up to establish the Detroit Council. On the Committee are Mrs. Clara Van Auken, Democratic Committeewoman; Walter Hardin, UAW-CIO; Mrs. Rosa Gragg, Shelton Tapps of the Ford local of the UAW; Edward Tolan of the Detroit Youth Assembly, Donald Thurber of the Metropolitan Youth Council and others.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Lives in 'Exclusive' District

Air Raid Warden Goes to Court To Oust Him

NOV. 13, 1942

DETROIT. — (ANP) — The case of a Jewish air raid warden seeking a court restraining order to prevent a Negro minister from occupying his recently purchased residence in exclusive Arden Park, has again focused the eyes of the nation on the critical housing situation here that was climaxed by a race riot a few months

The Rev. A. C. Williams, pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist church, purchased the property in ago.

Arden Park during the past summer for $20,000 and has lived there ever since with his family.

Action against the minister follows closely that of a restraining order secured by irate whites against F. T. Stevenson, who also bought a home in the district to bar him from occupying the premises. The hearing of the petition filed against Stevenson is scheduled to be held this week.

Dr. Kathen is basing his injunction action on the strength of an agreement between white property owners that Negroes cannot live in the area except in the capacity of servants. The petition was filed by Dr. Kathen and his associates before visiting Judge Fred S. George.

Attorneys Francis Dent and Lloyd Loomis, retained by Rev. Williams, announced that they have searched the records and have failed to find a clause in the contracts that Negroes could not purchase property in the Arden Park area.

James Hogsett of the Detroit Tribune commenting on the case said:

"I am a senior post warden in this district. Other citizens are also serving as air raid wardens in the area as volunteers in civilian defense. Dr. Kathen, the chief area warden, is not showing a spirit of democracy in trying to oust these colored citizens from their homes. Action like this plays into the hands of the enemies we are fighting."

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Whites Vehemently Protest Return Of Detroit Homes

FEB 14 1942

DETROIT (ANP)—Following the combined action of the Federal Housing authority at Washington and Charles F. Edgecomb, director secretary of Detroit Housing commission, at Washington last Monday, the Sojourner Truth Defense Housing project was reassigned to Negroes, thus settling one side of the controversial housing issue, but opening another. The new dispute became evident last Tuesday when more than 300 whites stormed the city hall to vehemently proclaim their protests against occupancy of the project by Negroes.

The reversal of decision was brought about chiefly through persistent organized protests of leading Negro citizens, backed by recommendations from Mayor Edward J. Jeffries and the Common Council, AFL, CIA labor groups, and other organizations.

March on City Hall

Infuriated whites, claiming to be home owners near the Sojourner Truth Housing site, forced their way into Mayor Jeffries office and extracted a promise from him that the council would hear them on protest of Negro occupancy of the project. Not content with this, they ignored the promise and barged into the council chamber and forced an immediate hearing.

FEB 14 1942

Defending his opinion of the project for Negroes, Councilman Edwards condemned the spokesmen of the group, Joseph R. Buffa and John Dalzell, officers of the Seven-Mile Fenelon Improvement association, for inciting racial feeling. He asserted:

"As for inflaming of race hatred in the city of Detroit, no two other people are more responsible than Mr. Buffa and Mr. Dalzell. They are persons whose sole interest is in the few lots on which they will lose a little money. They are doing this community a distinct disservice where unity is so important."

FEB 14 1942

'What Color Are You'

During his condemnation of the two insurgent spokesmen, Edwards was continuously berated with shouts of "two-faced Edwards," "What color are you, anyway." Attempts of police to quiet the gathering were futile. Some whites also expressed a dislike for Councilman Lodge who made a remark that he saw no need for a hearing.

One woman from the balcony shouted, "I've been run out of one neighborhood and I won't be run out of another. I'm a home owner. If the Negroes were going to move out in Grosse Points, you'd do something about it."

FEB 14 1942

Throughout all the clamoring, some whites, owners of mediocre homes waved the American flag and cheered Spokesman Buffa when he declared, "I never thought this could happen in a democratic country. We have nothing against Negroes getting housing; we just don't want them out where we have 'our' homes . . . Colored people worked with us in trying to block this project. One colored man went as spokesman to Washington with us. There are a number of Negro families already in the community, but they are nice people and from the professional group

64-1942
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

AN EDITORIAL

Both Negroes and Whites Hurt By Housing Ruling

JUN 12 1942

Renewed interest in the sale of so-called "restricted" properties is aroused by Attorney General Roy McKittrick's opinion that the Missouri Real Estate Commission may discipline real estate brokers who are the go-between for white sellers and Negro buyers. To reach that opinion the attorney general had to assume that sales of restricted properties prove the broker guilty of "misrepresentation and fraudulent conduct."

This opinion is far from being in the public interest. The real estate commission's authority does not extend to the white seller and the Negro buyer. Why bedevil the poor broker, who is only incidental to the sale, when the sale itself can be and will be carried on without him?

In the two large cities of Missouri, Kansas City and St. Louis, Negro housing has been a moot question for years. At times it is approached in a spirit of community building, but frequently it provokes ugly outbreaks of violence.

JUN 12 1942

Knowing Missouri, both the attorney general and the real estate commission should have attempted a more statesmanlike approach to the problem. They should not become pliant tools of real estate boards intent upon freezing Negro citizens in their present areas, from which they should escape both for their own cultural uplift and for the community's betterment in health and morals.

Unfortunately, restrictions of property against Negro ownership and occupancy have been considered in the United States courts from the standpoint of a contract. The human values concerned have not been taken into account. Missouri also avoids the real issue. The persecution of dealers who are incidental to it, is not a practical step toward a solution.

White owners who want to sell and Negro buyers who want to buy have the right under the 14th amendment to the constitution of the United States. That right is confessed when the opposition promotes restriction agreements in order to take away freedom from the seller. To make sale more difficult they now would tie the hands of the broker. Next they will ask that it be unlawful for a Negro to buy.

Race prejudice exists. We accept its presence as we do the weather. But just as we try to prepare ourselves for changes of temperature, Missouri should work to smooth out the friction that prejudice makes between groups of its citizenry. Negro housing is too integral a part of public health, to be treated only as a matter of dollars and cents.

Until homes for Negroes come to be on a standard of equality with other people, white owners of properties are going to find Negroes a market. Petty gestures like this opinion will not stop that sale any more than King Canute could sweep back the tide with a broom. For Missouri to help real estate boards stop the sale and purchase of homes is a disservice to whites, to blacks and to communities.

JUN 12 1942

Restrictions are a temporary device, not a divine institution. When they outlive their usefulness, they will be disregarded, the attorney general and the Missouri real estate commission to the contrary notwithstanding. Let the state get busy at its proper function which is to help the citizen, not hurt him.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Opinion of State Attorney General Blocking Negroes From Decent Homes

The attorney general of the state of Missouri issued the following opinion:

Mr. J. W. Hobbs
Secretary
Missouri Real Estate Commission
Jefferson City, Missouri

JUN 12 1942

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter of May 14, 1942, in which you request an official opinion, as follows:

"The Commission is confronted with an inquiry from Kansas City that we would like to ask your office for an opinion and at the same time ask if we have jurisdiction over licenses and their actions in municipalities having restrictions in certain districts of the city.

"The opinion desired is on the following:

"Negroes have been gradually encroaching on property in districts restricted against colored. They have recently taken practically the entire block on three streets. Negro agents are soliciting listings for sale to colored people from property owners in several blocks that are restricted against Negroes, and are now attempting to negotiate a sale of a four-apartment building in one block restricted against Negroes.'

'The restrictions expired in 1928 and were automatically renewed for an additional 15-year period, on the property in question. One block expired in 1929 and was automatically renewed for an additional 15-year period in accordance with the provision contained in the original restrictions.'

JUN

"Two Negroes active in the above listings are licensed as brokers."

Section 10, paragraph (a) of the Missouri Real Estate Commission Act, Laws of 1941, page 428, reads as follows:

"(a) Making substantial misrepresentations or false promises in the conduct of his business, or through agents or salesmen or advertising, which are intended to influence, persuade or induce others."

Under the above paragraph of Section 10 the Commission upon its own motion, shall have the power to revoke any license where the agent makes substantial and false misrepresentations to obtain sale such as, offering to make a sale that cannot be legally consumated.

Paragraph (g), Section 10 of the same law reads as follows:

"(g) Any other conduct constitutes untrustworthy or improper, fraudulent or dishonest dealings, or demonstrates bad faith or gross incompetence."

Section 11 of the Missouri Real Estate Commission Act, as it appears on page 429, Laws of Missouri, 1941, reads as follows:

"The commission may deny an application for a license, or suspend or revoke a license issued, only after a hearing of which the applicant or licensee affected shall be given at least ten days' written notice specifying the reason for denying the applicant a license, or, in case of a suspension or revocation, the offense or offenses of which the licenses is charged. Such notice may be served as provided by law for the service of notices, or by mailing a copy by registered mail to the last known residence or business address of such applicant or licensee. The hearing on such charges shall be at such time and place as the commission may prescribe.

JUN 12 1942

Under the facts set out in your request, the Negro real estate agents who have a license under your department, and who have made misrepresentations to prospective buyers of the property set out in your request, have violated only paragraph (a) and paragraph (g) of Section 10 of the Missouri Real Estate Commission Act, as set out in the Session Laws of 1941.

Under Section 11 of such act it would be necessary for the Commission to set out in a new notice the exact violation of the Missouri Real Estate Commission Act, and under paragraph (a) and paragraph (g) of Section 10 of the Missouri Real Estate Commission Act of 1941, it would be necessary to show that the person who holds a license under the Missouri Real Estate Commission Act knew that the property which they offered for sale should not be sold to Negroes or people of the Ethiopian race.

CONCLUSION

It is, therefore, the conclusion of this Department, under the above authorities, that a person who holds a real estate license under the Missouri Real Estate Commission, who makes substantial misrepresentations in the conduct of his business or who makes representations under any conduct which constitutes untrustworthy or improper, fraudulent or dishonest dealings, his license may be revoked under Section 11 of the Missouri Real Estate Commission Act which appears at page 424, Laws of Missouri 1941.

Respectfully submitted,
W. J. BURKE
Assistant Attorney-General

APPROVED:

ROY McKITTRICK
Attorney-General

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Wins St. Louis Residence Case

FEB 19 1943

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 17—(ANP)—Prof. Scovel Richardson of the Lincoln university law school will not be forced to move from his residence in the 4600 block on North Market street. A decision handed down Wednesday by Circuit Judge R. A. Aronson ended attempts of white groups, including the Marcus Avenue Protective association and the St. Louis Real Estate exchange, to bar Negroes from that area.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

RACIAL BIAS ALLEGED IN NEWARK CASE

DEC 26 1942

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—Complete settlement of the Newark situation in the office of dependency benefits is reported by the war department as a result of an investigation through Judge Hastie's office last week.

Charges of segregation of Negro workers were filed against the director of the office, who was promptly brought up for questioning.

DEC 26 1942

This office which handles the claims of dependents of army personnel, occupies the whole 20-story Prudential Life Insurance building and employs about 10,000 people. Some 15 per cent of the civilian population is colored.

Until two weeks ago they had been spread among various "work units" comprising groups of 10 employees ,each with its own supervisor without regard to color.

Suddenly Negro workers in one department found themselves transferred out of mixed units into an all-Negro unit with a Negro supervisor. The first complaint was made by a white worker, a junior clerk, who denounced the segregation.

He was told that a survey had determined that Negro workers would be "happier" in an all-Negro unit.

DEC 26 1942

On Nov. 24, a conference was held which resulted in the calling in of Judge Hastie The following day, the Negro unit was disbanded. Nine of the 10 workers in it were transferred to other units, where they again would work on an equal footing with white employees. Nine white workers were transferred into the previously all-Negro unit. Several Negroes were called in by the officer in charge, told that the separate unit had been an "experiment" and that it had proved to be a "mistake." The experiment therefore was being abandoned.

64-1942

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Whites Would Bar Andy Kirk From Jamaica Home

FEB 28 194

JAMAICA, L. I.—Band Leader Andy Kirk and the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are jointly fighting to break the restrictive covenant which has been keeping Mr. Kirk from owning a home in exclusive Addisleigh Park, a white middle-class residential section of Jamaica, L. I.

ANDY KIRK

Dr. John A. Singleton, president of the local branch of the NAACP, attacked the restrictive covenant as an "abridgement of citizenship rights under the Constitution," and hinted that the case might be taken to the nation's Supreme Court if the white home owners concerned should meet with success in their attempts to obtain an injunction designed to bar Negroes.

ONLY TO CAUCASIANS

About 500 families live in Addisleigh Park. Last year, after Band Leader Fats Waller, Radio Singer Clyde Barrie and other prominent Negroes had purchased in purchased in adjacent St. Albans, the Addisleigh Neighborhood Association was formed and 15 of these families agreed on a restrictive covenant whereby property in the park could be sold only to "persons on the Caucasian race." Representatives of these 15 families recently petitioned in the Queens Supreme Court for an injunction to restrain a white owner from selling his property to Mr. Kirk.

FEB 28 1942

The petition was opposed by lawyers representing the band leader, the NAACP, and Hugo L. Heydorn, a colored real estate dealer at 170-02 111th Avenue, Jamaica. Heydorn precipitated the fight by selling a home on the fringe of the park to Mrs. Lillian Tynes, a school teacher and also interested Mr. Kirk in the neighborhood.

Among those who testified for Mr. Kirk was Prof. Henry Blodgett a former president of Adelphi College, who owns a home in the park. Prof. Blodgett said he had not signed the restrictive covenant and was not opposed to selling to selling to decent, law-abiding Negroes. Heydorn's lawyers brought

FEB 28 1942

NEW YORK

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Whites Invoke Covenant To Bar Andy Kirk From Home

MAY 9 - 1942

Discriminatory measures aimed at preventing colored citizens from moving into "exclusive" Addisleigh Park, St. Albans, L. I., were upheld by Supreme Court Justice Thomas Cuff (Queens) last week during a hearing to legally determine whether bandleader Andy Kirk could purchase a $10,000 home over the objections of his prospective white neighbors.

Hugo Heydorn, the well known real estate broker, arranged the deal for Mr. and Mrs. Kirk early last Fall. But when Addisleigh Park whites heard of the proposed sale, they brought up a "restrictive agreement" (barring all non-whites) which was signed by 200 persons with the understanding that colored people would be barred from the neighborhood until 1975.

MAY 9 - 1942

Owned by Whites

The house in question is owned by a white couple, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Neely, who disliked the idea of barring people because of race or color.

ANDY KIRK LOSES RIGHT TO LIVE IN EXCLUSIVE SECTION

Pittsburgh Courier

LONG ISLAND, N. Y., May 7.—The Queens Supreme court last week upheld the right of 200 white residents of the community of an exclusive St. Albans, L.I., section to bar Negroes from purchasing homes. Pittsburgh

The decision was handed down by Justice Thomas C. Cuff, who ruled that a covenant signed by the whites to restrict sales to "persons of the white or Caucasian race," was enforcible.

Action was brought against Henry N. Neely and his wife, Madeline, who live at 176th street and 114th avenue, by five plaintiffs to enjoin the Neelys from consummating the sale of their property to Andy Kirk, the Negro bandleader.

Equality on St. Marks Ave.--Tenants Prove It

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y. OCT 3 - 1942

By Oakley Johnson

Yesterday Mr. and Mrs. Jack Yanow, white, of 921 St. Marks Ave., Brooklyn, invited Mr. and Mrs. Chee Renie, colored, of the same address to go with them to a concert.

It's just a simple item from the unwritten social records of the newly formed St. Marks Tenants Association, whose purpose is to fight Negro discrimination and high rents, but it means a lot. It means that Negro and white people can not only live in the same country and fight in the same army but they can live in the same house and have full neighborly and social relations with each other.

With a people's war on to destroy Hitler's fascist "superior race" ideas and practices, it's important that good democratic ideas be translated into good democratic action.

Incidentally, it was Jack Yanow, textile worker, who acted as chairman of the rank-and-file tenants meeting last week, where the white tenants discuss the fact that Negro tenants were moving in. The great question was whether to "move" or to "stay." The majority decided to stay.

SHE SPOKE UP

Jack's wife, Mary Yanow, dressmaker, was one of those who spoke up at that meeting in favor of unity for the war effort, of staying in the house, and of being friends with the incoming Negro tenants, who, she said, "are just as nice as we are."

Thelma Renie, former night club entertainer, new Negro tenant who will be one of the guests of the Yanows, was elected as one of the five-man organizing committee of the tenants' league.

OCT 3 - 1942

The People's Voice, progressive Harlem newspaper edited by Councilman Adam Clayton Powell, praised the St. Marks tenants in a news item in its Oct. 3 issue. It said that "An attempt to set up a Jim Crow project and raise rent" was foiled by "40 white tenants." The white tenants were notified "that Negroes would move into their apartments and that they could move out—if they desired. They refused."

The superintendent of the two houses 921 and 925 St. Marks Ave., Paul Petraitus, assured the Daily Worker that he personally believes that white and colored can and should live together in friendship. He added that his employer, Samuel Edelstein of 170 Broadway, Manhattan, had instructed him to rent the apartments to both white and Negro tenants who wished to move in.

"My boss asked me to show apartments to white and colored both," he said.

OCT 3 - 1942

His wife, Ann Petraitus, confirmed this statement, saying, "If white tenants want to rent an apartment, as well as colored, we would be only to glad to show it to them."

The Petraitus family, who are of Lithuanian descent and bitterly anti-Hitler, plan to remain in the house in which they are renting some apartments to Negro families. They have a son, George, in the United States Army.

Negro-White Tenant Unity Blasts Jim Crow

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y. SEP 30 1942

SEP 30 1942 SEP 30 1942

By Oakley Johnson

It's not a small and local change that's taking place in those two houses at 921 and 925 St. Marks Ave., Brooklyn. It's national in its implications, in its meaning for the war effort. It's historic. Sum and substance of the story is that Negro tenants are moving into vacant apartments in the two houses, and the white tenants, instead of giving the landlord a green light to set up jim-crow, are staying in the house and joining with the colored tenants to form a neighborhood association. Two more white tenants signed up for the association yesterday, making a total of 14 so far.

Mr. Samuel Edelstein, Manhattan attorney and owner of the two houses, whose office is at 170 Broadway, has visited the tenants and told them he had no intention of discrimination against Negroes or of raising rents unduly. Mr. Edelstein's visit took place after a Daily Worker reporter had interviewed him on the subject. He insisted that he would be glad to have the white tenants remain in the houses on good neighborly terms with the Negro tenants and that he was even thinking of living there himself.

SEP 30 1942

The committee elected by the tenants at their first meeting last week held an informal conference with Mr. Edelstein and presented him with their main demands: not to jim-crow the new tenants nor discriminate against them, not to raise the rents in violation of the Office of Price Administration rent standards, and not to lower the service of any tenant, white or Negro.

Mr. Edelstein agreed orally to all of these stipulations.

Last night the tenants' committee met with Mrs. Grace Aviles, president of the United Tenants Leagues, 239—8th Ave., Manhattan, and affiliated with the city-wide body. The new organization, still in its formative stages, is to be known as the St. Marks Tenants Association, and will have as its two central principles the fight against anti-Negro discrimination and the fight against high rents.

Mrs. Thelma Renie, new Negro tenant at 921 St. Marks Ave., is on the organizing committee with some four white tenants.

In the meantime, a new Negro tenant has moved into 925 St. Marks Ave., Apt. 1-C. He is J. R. Powell, motorman and member of the Transport Workers Union. That his fellow workers rate him high may be seen from the fact that he is a shop steward on the job. Mr. Powell's wife is a civil service clerical worker.

Speaking of white families remaining in the house after colored tenants had moved in, Mr. Powell said, with a laugh, "Some of them think it's a terrible thing to do. It's a tempest in a teapot. Why shouldn't they live in the same house?"

Mr. Powell has not yet joined the St. Marks Tenants Association, but he says that he's going to attend the next meeting.

Whites Evict Jim Crowism

15 Families Stay in Building Opened to Negroes To Avert 'Victory for Axis'

PM N.Y., N.Y. SEP 29 1942

Half of the 30 white families in a Brooklyn apartment house newly opened to Negro tenancy have decided not to move out, on the ground that conforming to the usual pattern of segregation would be "a victory for the Axis in Brooklyn."

The apartments, owned by Samuel Edelstein, are at 921 and 925 St. Marks Ave. They contain 40 living units, 10 of which are vacant.

Earlier in September Edelstein informed his tenants that Negroes would be allowed to rent. He then advertised the entire 40 apartments for rent.

Negroes to Pay More

The usual procedure in such cases is to jack up the rents, whereupon the white families move out. White tenants now pay from $32 to $50. Negroes will be charged from $37 to $52. Edelstein contends, however, that aggregate rents from the building will remain unchanged.

SEP 29 1942

When the tenants learned that the apartments were being opened to Negroes, they called a meeting. Catherine Masters, of the United Tenants League, told them:

"No soldier in our Army runs when he faces a problem. He stays and fights. I suggest you do the soldierly thing. Wherever disunity exists, the Axis scores a victory—whether it be in Burma or Brooklyn."

A Negro woman and her Filipino husband already had moved in when the tenants' meeting was called. The tenants were at first reluctant to invite her, for fear she might be embarrassed; but they decided the democratic way was to invite all tenants. The new couple came to the meeting and were welcomed.

SEP 29 1942

Explanations

In the discussion at the meeting, one tenant said he had decided to move because "colored boys make noises in the streets." Another said she was getting out because "Negroes stole my mother's purse and tried to snatch my fur scarf."

But Arty Stone, a machinist in a war plant, said:

"Of course I'll stay. We're fighting a people's war; and unity is part of our war aim."

Mary and Jack Yanno, dress workers, also will stay.

SEP 29 1942

"The war is against discrimination," they said, "and we support the war, so why shouldn't we stay?"

An auditor, who didn't want his name used, said:

"The President told us we must have unity to win the war. I guess he means it, and I believe it. Victory in battle can start from victory at home. I'm staying."

64-1942
Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

"No N-----s Allowed", Air Raid Warden Tells Family

A mob of North Philadelphia whites attempted to halt a colored family from moving into their neighborhood by shots and intimidation Tuesday night.

Shooting out the street lights, members of the mob then fired more than 30 volleys into the house in an attempt to force Mr. and Mrs. Luther Green to move from 2323 north 13th street.

Warned To Move

The acts of vandalism and hooliganism were a continuance of threats that began Monday when the family first went to the house to place it in order.

So disturbed by the evidences of impending terrorism was the family that it moved from the premises Wednesday morning.

No "N - - s" Allowed

First intimation of the feelings of the neighborhood came when an Air Raid Warden stopped Mrs. Green Monday and told her "that no 'n - - r' would be allowed to stay there and he would see that they were made miserable."

Following this, a white woman who lived next door barged into the house and warned Mrs. Green that it was no use to move in because "no n - - s are going to stay there, ruining a good neighborhood."

Promised Protection

Mr. and Mrs. Green went to the 8th and Jefferson streets police station and were assured by officers there that their rights would be protected.

During the next several hours some of the neighbors went to the renting agent and warned him that if he persisted in allowing the colored family to move in they would see that he was removed from the list of realtors.

Would Pay Rent.

Another group assured him that the neighborhood would be willing to chip in and pay him the rent as long as the house was vacant.

Everything was quiet until about 8 o'clock Tuesday night. There were five persons in the house: Mr. and Mrs. Green, Mr. and Mrs. John Green, and a cousin, Miss Beulah Collins. Shots were heard in the street and the lights went out. Then bullets began pouring through the window. Happily no one was hurt. The men slipped out the back door and ran to the police station, help coming in 15 minutes.

Though the police told the family to stay in the house they refused to do so and went to the home of an aunt at 1340 Brown street.